

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1-45 (cancelled).

46. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
receiving user-specified force information from a user interface;
including the user-specified force information in a chat message, the user-specified force information configured to cause a haptic sensation to be output when the chat message is delivered to a client machine, the user-specified force information associated with a waveform;
and
transmitting the chat message to a network.

47. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein receiving the user-specified force information comprises receiving the user-specified force information via a chat interface.

48. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 47, wherein receiving the user-specified force information comprises receiving a haptic effect selected from a plurality of haptic effects in the chat interface and associating the user-specified force information with the selected haptic effect.

49. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 48 wherein the plurality of haptic effects is graphically represented by a plurality of buttons.

50. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 47, further comprising associating the user-specified force information with a command input to the chat interface.

51. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46 wherein the user-specified force information includes a force command, the force command configured to instruct the output of the haptic sensation associated with the delivery of the chat message.

52. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46 wherein the user-specified force information includes a network address, the network address being associated with a network location storing a library of haptic sensations.

53. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46 wherein the user-specified force information includes data characterizing the haptic sensation to be output.

54. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 46 further comprising including a sound information in the chat message, the sound information configured to cause an auditory effect to be output when the chat message is delivered to the a-client machine.

55. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46 wherein the network includes one of a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), a wireless network, a computer network, a telephone network, and the Internet.

56. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
receiving a chat message from a network, the chat message including user-specified force information;
extracting the user-specified force information from the chat message; and
generating a first signal associated with the user-specified force information, the first signal associated with a waveform and configured to cause a haptic sensation to be output.

57. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 further comprising directing the first signal to a haptic device, the first signal configured to cause the haptic device to output a haptic sensation associated with the chat message.

58. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 57 further comprising displaying the chat message.

59. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 further comprising extracting sound information from the chat message and generating a second signal associated with the sound information.

60. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 59 further comprising directing the second signal to an audio device, the second signal configured to cause the audio device to output an auditory effect associated with the chat message.

61. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 56 wherein the network includes one of a local area network (LAN), a wide area network (WAN), a wireless network, a computer network, a telephone network, and the Internet.

62. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium storing program code, the program code comprising instructions to cause a processor to:

receive user-specified force information from a user interface;
include the user-specified force information in a chat message, the user-specified force information being configured to cause a haptic sensation to be output when the chat message is delivered to a client machine, the user-specified force information associated with a waveform;
and
transmit the chat message to a network.

63. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 62 further comprising code to receive the chat message via a chat interface.

64. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 63 further comprising code to receive a haptic effect selected from a plurality of haptic effects and associating the user-specified force information with the selected haptic effect.

65. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 63 further comprising code to associate the user-specified force information with a command input to the chat interface.

66. (Currently Amended) The computer-readable medium of claim 62 wherein the user-specified force information includes a force command, the force command configured to instruct the output of the haptic sensation associated with the delivery of the chat message.

67. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 62 further comprising code to include a sound information in the chat message, the sound information configured to cause an auditory effect to be output when the chat message is delivered.

68. (Previously Presented) A computer-readable medium storing program code, the program code comprising instructions to cause a processor to:

receive a chat message from a network, the chat message including user-specified force information;

extract the user-specified force information from the chat message; and

generate a first signal associated with the user-specified force information, the first signal associated with a waveform and configured to cause a haptic sensation to be output.

69. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 68 further comprising code to direct the first signal to a haptic device, the first signal configured to cause the haptic device to output a haptic sensation associated with the chat message.

70. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 69 further comprising code to display the chat message.

71. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 68 further comprising code to extract a sound information from the chat message and code to generate a second signal associated with the sound information.

72. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of claim 71 further comprising code to direct the second signal to an audio device, the audio device operable to output an auditory sensation associated with the chat message.
73. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the user-specified force information comprises force-information associated with a user-specified icon attribute.
74. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the waveform comprises a default waveform.
75. (Previously Presented) The method of claim 46, wherein the waveform represents speech data.
76. (Previously Presented) A method, comprising:
receiving user-specified force information and a destination address from a user interface;
providing the user-specified force information and the destination address in a chat message, the user-specified force information configured to cause a haptic sensation to be output when the chat message is delivered to a client machine associated with the destination address, the user-specified force information associated with a waveform; and
transmitting the chat message to a network.
77. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7646, wherein receiving user-specified force information comprises receiving the user-specified force information via a chat interface.
78. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7747, wherein receiving user-specified force information comprises receiving a haptic effect selected from a plurality of haptic effects in the chat interface and associating the user-specified force information with the selected haptic effect.

79. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7848 wherein the plurality of haptic effects is graphically represented by a plurality of buttons.

80. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7747 further comprising associating the user-specified force information with a command input to the chat interface.

81. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7646 wherein the user-specified force information includes a force command, the force command configured to instruct the output of the haptic sensation associated with the delivery of the chat message.

82. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7646 wherein the user-specified force information includes a network address, the network address being associated with a network location storing a library of haptic sensations.

83. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7646 wherein the user-specified force information includes data characterizing the haptic sensation to be output.

84. (Currently Amended) The method of claim 7646 further comprising including a sound information in the chat message, the sound information configured to cause an auditory effect to be output when the chat message is delivered to a client machine.